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59
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumnae:

I want you to know that Wesleyan is going "full steam ahead" in her plans for next year. The catalogue is in press, an attractive new circular has been issued, representatives are in the field, alumnae and students are keyed up in endeavor to secure our proper quota of students going to college. All daughters of Wesleyan everywhere will no doubt join heartily in the intensified effort to secure students. Could we fill our dormitories we would be giving a wonderful illustration of the vitality of Wesleyan. Can't we do it—by co-operative effort and persistent work?

Meanwhile, we are having an excellent year. Our students have done good work, and their responsiveness has been superb. Our faculty have given their usual faithful and loyal service. There has been no slacking at any point because of the million we owe. Our Trustees are working on plans to arrange our obligations until times improve and we can secure the money.

To all alumnae everywhere I send my kindest regards and assurances of devotion to the interest of the College and belief in the ultimate and complete solution of our financial problems.

Sincerely yours,

DICE R. ANDERSON,

President.

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Vol. IX

FEBRUARY, 1933

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The Story of The First College For Women

In this Georgia bi-centennial year, many school-children have written to us for a history of the first college for women, Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. The following brief sketch of Wesleyan's history gives a bird's-eye view of the college through almost a century of its existence. You can help "educate" any one who may not know about "The Oldest and Best College."

Wesleyan College has among her souvenirs of the past a bit of old parchment laced with faded blue ribbon, so highly prized that it is kept in one of the fire-proof vaults on the campus, while a photograph of it is shown proudly to visitors. It is the first diploma ever granted to a woman by a college chartered for the higher education of women.

The First Diploma

The diploma was granted to Miss Catherine E. Brewer by Wesleyan College (then known as the Georgia Female College) in 1840. She was one of a class of eleven young ladies, the first in alphabetical order. She became Mrs. Benson, mother of the late Admiral William S. Benson, ranking admiral of the U. S. Navy in the World War. A beautiful copy of Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair" hangs in the college parlor, the gift of Admiral Benson in memory of his mother.

Founding a college for women was no easy task. In addition to an Indian uprising, the Georgia militia leaving for war with Mexico, and a financial panic in which cotton dropped from 16c to 4c a pound, there was a storm of protest from narrow-minded people. The generally accepted opinion was that "all a young lady needed to know was how to weave clothes for her family or to paint a daisy in water colors," that "females could never master studies long familiar to males," and that it was "unwomanly" for a girl to be

educated beyond the ability to read the New Testament.

Champions of "Female Education"

The state legislators themselves said these things in the hot debates in the capitol when the bill for chartering the college was introduced. It was on Christmas eve, 1836, when all seemed lost, that Alexander H. Stephens, later vice-president of the Confederacy, but then a young attorney, with fiery eloquence wrested the charter from the state legislature. At the close of his career as a statesman, he declared that this achievement in behalf of woman's education in Georgia was the most worthwhile thing that he had done.

The thirteen-year-old city of Macon raised \$20,000 at a public meeting to begin the building, and surrendered the scheme to the guardianship of the Georgia Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, who accepted the offer, appointed trustees, and sent out an agent to solicit subscriptions. George Foster Pierce, later a Bishop of the Methodist Church, was the first president of the college.

First College Building

"Georgia Illustrated," a musty, yellow-paged volume of Georgia sketches, recently added to Wesleyan's library by James H. Porter, trustee, gives a description of the

first building, written by Bishop Pierce:

"The college building is located on a commanding eminence, midway between the city of Macon and the village of Vineville. The city is spread out on the plain below; the surrounding hills are crowned with private mansions of the most tasteful architecture.

"On the western side is Vineville with its quiet dwellings and the majestic pine forest nearby; on the north the ruins of old Fort Hawkins.

"Blockhouses and the relics of ancient fortifications are remaining, to connect its present peaceful habitations with the stir and clangor of martial troops and deadly strife.

"The college edifice is an imposing structure, one hundred and sixty feet long and sixty feet wide, rising four stories high in the center, and crowned with a cupola. It has wings three stories high, surrounded with a parapet. The front view is relieved from monotony by a recess of twelve feet, over which a roof projects, supported by four massive pillars. There are 56 rooms in the building. Recitation rooms are in the basement. The chapel is on the second floor. It is forty feet wide, extending in length across the whole breadth of the building. In the dormitories are spacious rooms, generally 18 feet square, with large windows and high ceilings. The plan is to put four young ladies in a room, with the furniture provided by the occupants.

"The yard extends over a lot of four acres, and affords the young ladies ample space for exercise and recreation."

War Period

The War Between the States followed all too soon after the college was established. Wesleyan girls of the '60's remember it vividly. One of them wrote about it:

"In 1863 the rooming section of the college was full to capacity, in some instances five occupying one room. Some of the girls were refugees. To keep the college going, several refined and cultured families had room and board in the college. Among them were the father and sister of our own Georgia poet, Sidney Lanier. On occasional visits of Lanier to them, the girls would gather in groups to hear the sweet music of the flute of which he was master. Mr. Day and his daughter, Miss Mary, whom Lanier married, also boarded there.

"The number of pupils decreased, and in 1867 only five of the large class which began its career in 1863 graduated. During the war, families refugee from their homes; churches, schools and colleges were deserted; some left in destruction's wake. Wesleyan held her own, President Bonnell standing firmly at the helm and successfully leading her through the conflict."

Seney Gift

In 1881, a surprisingly short time after the War Between the North and the South, a northern man, George I. Seney, of Brooklyn, N. Y., gave to Wesleyan her first large gift, \$125,000 to be used for enlargement and endowment. "If my friends should ask," said Mr. Seney, "why I do not give this money to my own people, say to them: they are my people; we are one people."

Until 1927, when Mr. B. N. Duke of North Carolina gave an equal amount, this was the largest gift Wesleyan had ever received.

A few years ago the friends of the college saw that the old buildings and campus were too small for the students who thronged the gates. The "majestic forest" described by Bishop Pierce, had long since given place to houses around and beyond the "village of Vineville," and the four-acre yard around the college no longer "afforded the young ladies ample room for recreation and exercise." It was decided, therefore, to build the new Wesleyan on a campus of 170 acres at Rivoli, in the immediate suburbs of Macon.

—And Today

In place of the one building 160 feet long and 60 feet wide, there are now twelve modern and well-equipped buildings, finished in the Georgian style of architecture. The prototype of the dining hall is found in Washington's home at Mount Vernon, that of the library in The Hermitage, the historical old home built upon the Savannah River in 1830.

Wesleyan holds a high place in the academic world today, and is recognized by every standardizing agency. Approaching the hundredth anniversary of her founding, Wesleyan College stands as a monument to the farsighted wisdom of the state of Georgia, the first state to provide for the higher education of women.

Wesleyan Will Send a Speaker

to any organization in your town. Wesleyan professors have prepared a number of interesting lectures on subjects of popular appeal.

Will the Wesleyan alumnae in your town sponsor one of these lectures?

Will you call the attention of other organizations to this opportunity?

The lectures will be available for a year, and will be suitable for:

Civic Clubs.

Churches—Dr. Anderson will be glad to speak any Sunday at the morning or evening service.

Women's Clubs.

Literary, music, or other cultural clubs.

High Schools.

Here is a partial list of subjects from which to choose:

Dean Leon P. Smith

Our Anglo-Saxon Heritage.

Our Coastal Plain, a study of the advances and retreats of the Atlantic over South Georgia.

The Significance of Pike's Peak Ridge.

The Mineral Resources of Georgia.

What Chemistry Means to Life.

Dr. Raleigh M. Drake

Child Psychology.

Prof. I. E. McKellar

A Modern Civilization in Ancient Rome.

Trends and Fads of American Life.

The Human Horace.

Dr. G. W. Gignilliat, Jr.

The Shakespearean Heroine.

John Masefield: Poet of Modern Realism.

The Poetic Features in Advertising.

Dr. Ralph Huston

Georgia Trees in Winter.

Life in the College at Oxford, England.

Dr. Iris L. Whitman

Our Neighbors of the South (Pan-America), with flags of the 21 states.

German Expressionism.

Fear.

Professor G. E. Rosser

The Bible.

Christ, the Answer to World Problems.

The Holy Land.

Miss M. Virginia Garner

Modern Drama.

The Little Theatre Movement.

Wesley as an Organizer and Leader.

Opportunities for Women in Journalism.

Writing the One-Act Play.

Tennyson as a Religious Teacher.

The Literary Element in the Psalms.

Dr. R. L. Wiggins

Browning.

"Uncle Remus."

Some Trends in Education.

Prof. J. W. W. Daniel

Shall We Look at Russia?

Dr. Jane E. Wolf

Education in France.

Miss Elizabeth Cate

Sappho, the Tenth Muse (A Modern Woman of 2000 years ago).

Prof. M. C. Quillian

Farm Forestry in the South.

The National Menace of Soil Erosion.

Our Bird Friends.

The Conquering of Disease.

Prof. Herbert Kraft

Musical Memory (Why Stage-Fright?).

Beethoven (Lecture-Recital).

Schubert (Lecture-Recital).

Music as a Vocation.

Dr. S. L. Akers

Philosophy and Life.

A Philosopher's Creed.

Prof. J. M. Almand

Science and Modern Civilization.

Mrs. Lula J. Comer

A Summer Abroad.

Miss Rosetta Rivers

Modern Art (Exhibition).

Designing (Illustrated lecture).

Miss Eunice Harper (voice), Miss Anne C. Wallace (dramatic art), Miss Ray Ballard (piano), Miss Loulie Barnett (piano) will give recitals. Mrs. Marian E. Jones will arrange a program of costume dialogs or short playlets with the children of her class for towns near enough to be reached by automobile.

A New College Hostess

After the Christmas holidays, Wesleyan students returned to find that the college household had a new member. She is Mrs. D. R. Anderson, bride of the president.

Dr. and Mrs. Anderson were married in Belton, Texas, on December 24th. She was formerly Miss Martha Hardy, daughter of Dr. John Crumpton Hardy, president of Baylor College. She received her A.B. degree at Baylor College and her M.A. degree at Columbia University. For three years she was a teacher of English at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Mrs. Anderson is a brunette, small of stature and possessed of unusual charm. Already she is a great favorite with the college students who accepted her on sight. Faculty, alumnae and Macon friends who have met her find her delightful. Having been born in a college where her father was president, and having lived all her life in a college atmosphere, she is admirably fitted for her new role as the wife of Wesleyan's president and "hostess" of the college.

All-Wesleyan Day

Wesleyan clubs observed their annual "All-Wesleyan Day" on March 28th this year. If your club was unable to meet on this date, plan for a meeting as soon as possible. The Wesleyan Alumnae Office will be glad to help you with your program if you wish, and the college can send you a speaker if you are having a special occasion.

Alumnae-College Days

The fourth annual "Alumnae - College Days" will be held next fall instead of this spring. The program will be announced at Commencement and dates decided on at that time.

Nominations For Alumnae Trustee

At the 1932 commencement, the following resolution in regard to the election of alumnae trustees was adopted:

"Be it resolved that Alumnae Trustees of Wesleyan College shall hereafter be nominated by the executive Committee of the Alumnae Association, nominations to be confirmed by the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan, and then confirmed by the South Georgia Conference.

"All Wesleyan groups shall be asked to submit nominations to the Executive Committee. Alumnae Trustees shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall not be eligible to succeed themselves."

This year marks the expiration of the term of Margie Burks, A.B., '05, which for the past year has been held by Linda (McKinney) Anderson. The new trustee therefore, can come from the state at large, or from out-of-state, but not from Macon or Atlanta, the homes of the other two alumnae trustees.

All clubs send in nominations at once.

Loyalty Fund

The total amount of alumnae subscriptions during the campaign which ended in January is \$23,987.47. At that time so many alumnae who could not contribute expressed the hope of doing so later that the Loyalty Fund notices will be sent out in April as usual. Those who have not already contributed can do so then. The college will need alumnae help greatly in closing up the school year.

Easter Broadcast

Mrs. Marian Elder Jones, of the Dramatic Art department of Wesleyan Conservatory, will broadcast an Easter program over WMAZ in Macon on Easter Sunday at 1:45.

Commencement

COMMENCEMENT DATES—MAY 26-29

REUNION CLASSES

1862, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68

1889, '90, '91, '92

1908, '09, '10, '11

1927, '28, '29, '30, '31

Is this your reunion year? The college invites you to come back as her guests for the Commencement season, May 26-29, to re-live for a little while your college days, with your classmates. Shall we reserve a room for you?

Scholarships to Wesleyan

The Atlanta Constitution and the Atlanta Journal are both conducting contests with a scholarship to Wesleyan as a reward to the winner. The Atlanta Journal is having its fifth annual Latin tournament for high school students. The winning senior, if a girl, has her choice of one-year scholarships to Agnes Scott, Shorter, and Wesleyan; if a boy, the scholarship is to Emory. The Italian government is offering twelve medals to the winners in the different divisions of the contest. Annabel Horn, '06, of the Latin Department of Girls High, Atlanta, is a member of the committee appointed by the Journal to plan the contest.

The Constitution tells of its contest as follows:

Planned as especially timely in view of the 200th anniversary of the state now being celebrated a contest to familiarize Georgians with their state and to foster pride in historical accomplishments will begin in the rotogravure section of The Constitution on April 16 and offer as prizes free scholarships at the University of Georgia and Wesleyan College.

The University of Georgia was the first state university in the United States and Wesleyan College was the first chartered woman's college in the world. It was especially fitting to choose institutions rich in historical background.

The contest will begin with the first page of roto pictures of Georgia scenes on April 16 and each Sunday for 17 weeks a page will be shown.

Dormitory Day—April 29

April 29th will be Dormitory Day this year. On that day high school seniors from all over the state will come by bus and train and automobile to the Rivoli campus to be met by enthusiastic Wesleyan students who will serve as their hostesses for the day. They will have a cross-section of college life minus the books and study—with games on the campus, an exhibition in the gym, swimming, horse-back riding, parties, and a spend-the-night in the dormitory.

If you know a high school girl who would be interested in coming to Wesleyan, please send us her name so that we may invite her. Wouldn't the alumnae in your town like to bring a number of high school girls to Wesleyan in your cars for the occasion? We'll be glad to entertain you, too.

May Day

The first May Day celebration on the new Wesleyan campus will be held on Founder's Day, May 12th ("Seney's Birthday").

Anne Herndon of Elberton, Ga., president of the Student Government Association, was elected May Queen by student vote.

A beautiful dance pageant is being planned for the afternoon of the 12th, and all alumnae and friends of the college are invited to attend. Miss Ernestine Grote, director of physical education, with her staff of the physical education department, will have charge of the exercises.

G. E. A. Luncheon in Savannah

The Savannah alumnae are sponsoring the Wesleyan luncheon held during the Georgia Educational Association's meeting in Savannah this year. It will be held at the De Soto Hotel on Friday, April 21. Make your reservation with Miss Harriet Butler, Secretary, 621 W. 27th Street, Savannah.